GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3904
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
FOOD ADULTERATION ACT
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether existing food Adulteration Act has proved to be a failure in controlling the cases of adulteration;

(b) if so, whether there are some lacunae in the existing Act in regard to punish the accused;

(c) if so, whether the Government have a proposal to amend the existing Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which sufficient amendments would be made?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 was enacted with the objective of ensuring pure and wholesome food to the consumers. The Act has been amended thrice so far, for removing the loopholes and making the punishments more stringent.

(c), (d) & (e) The amendment of the Act is resorted to from time to time to make the provisions more effective in keeping with the emerging requirements/challenges. At present, the Government is in the process of examining a proposal for reviewing the various provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 considering the recommendations/suggestions received in this Ministry from various sources, such as Task force on food Laws, Commission on review of administrative laws, Trade, Industry, Consumer Groups etc. The recommendations/suggestions received include:

(i) Change in the title of the Act,

(ii) Changes in certain definitions given under the Act;

(iii) Incorporating a provision for giving a counterpart of the sample to the person from whom the sample is taken;

(iv) Rationalisation of the penalty provisions considering the gravity of the offence.

Since the amendment of the statute involves thorough study of various aspects of the proposal, various procedural formalities as well as inter-ministerial consultation, no exact time frame can be stipulated, at this stage, regarding the finalisation of the draft amendments.